

T H E
D A N G E R
O F
F A C T I O N
T O A
Free P E O P L E.

Ambition and Faction alone have been the Ruin of many States, that seem'd otherwise to be well secured.

Sir THO. MOORE'S *Utopia*.

Ambitious Men, if they find the Way *open* for their *Rising*, and *still* get forward, are rather busy than dangerous; but, if they be *check'd in their Desires*, they become secretly discontent, and look upon Men, and Matters with an *evil Eye*, and are *best pleas'd* when Things go *backward*, which is the *worst Property* in a Servant to a Prince, or State. Lord BACON,

L O N D O N :

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T H E
DANGER of FACTION
T O A
FREE PEOPLE.

 *ACTION* is a Mischief, that as
infallibly grows up with *Liberty*,
as Weeds abound most in the
richest Soil; an absolute Mo-
narchy is a barren Rock that will bear nei-
ther, and, if 'tis deny'd the Blessing of the
one, is secure from the Curse of the other.

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A free Government not only protects the Rights of the People, but indulges their Passions at the same Time; if *Slavery* degenerates the Minds of Men, and incapacitates them for every Thing that is great, or heroick, *Freedom* makes them wanton, and fickle, turbulent, and seditious, makes them dissatisfied with their present Circumstance, and whimsically desirous of a Change. A wise Prince, like a good Physician, will carefully consider the particular Weakness of the Constitution committed to his Charge, and begin the Cure in the right Place. If *Faction* therefore waits on *Liberty* as naturally as the Shadow on the Substance, 'twill be the Business of such a Prince to watch its Motions with a jealous Eye, to oppose it sometimes, and prevent the Malignity of its Purposes before they can take Place: This will appear the more necessary when we consider the Evil of its Nature, and the Dangers that attend it. Of all the Calamities that can threaten a free State, except *Slavery*, *Faction* is the greatest; all States are liable to a Variety of Calamities, and *Faction* shews its Head generally when 'tis incumber'd with the greatest Number; so that when 'tis most needful for Power to exert it self, 'tis the least able, and a King-

Kingdom is then like a diseas'd Man, challeng'd to the Field, when he is dying at home: In short, *Faction* is a Viper that preys on the Vitals of the very Government that warms, and protects it, and will infallibly destroy what it feeds upon, unless timely discover'd, and carefully prevented. *Patriotism* is the Foster-Father of this many-headed Monster, and it affects the Name and Qualities of its imaginary Parent; but nothing can be more unjust than this Usurpation, nor is any Thing more unlike that divine Original. *Patriotism* is founded on Truth, and Virtue; *Faction* is an Enemy to both; *Patriotism* makes itself a Victim for the Publick Good, *Faction* sacrifices the Publick to its own Interest: The Heroes of *Patriotism* are the Fathers of their Country, whether in Power, or out; the Tools of *Faction* commence *Patriots* when they are useless to the State, and court the People to make *themselves* great. *Faction* indeed is Hell-born like Sin, and owes its Original to a Groupe of Furies of the blackest Nature; the base, and mercenary Ambition, that has been rejected even by Courts, descends to flatter the *Vulgar* it despises, and makes a Merit of Infamy, and Disgrace, to be-

become dangerously popular: Envy, and Resentment are its Guides, and Familiars; the Great, and Good, that stand between it, and Authority, and Reputation, are the Objects of its Malice; and the favourite End in View is to gratify its Pride and Avarice together.

THIS is a true Picture of *Faction*, its Features will admit of no Aggravation, and even Deformity itself is more agreeable. But 'tis not in this Form, 'tis not with all her natural Horrors that she makes her Appearance to the Publick; no, she is as intimate with Falshood, as Malice, and can borrow whatever Mask will best suit her Purpose; she believes that of *Patriotism* will do her most Service, and therefore 'tis her continual Care to hide her own Uglinefs beneath it, and persuade the People to mistake it for her native Complexion. Could she be seen such as she is, she would make no Converts: Men would be convinc'd at once that such a Face was the Face of an Enemy, and would be taught by Instinct to avoid it: This she is thoroughly aware of, and therefore leagues with Hypocrisy to make her Snares more effectual. Hence arises the Credulity of the
People,

People, they are first taught to believe that *Faction* and *Patriotism* are the same, that it has no Designs of its own to serve, and that all its Study and Toil are only for their Benefit: Safe in this false Prejudice of the Publick in its Favour, *Faction* extends it self by Degrees, and lays the Foundation of future Mischiefs: The first Stratagem that is tried, is to make the People dissatisfied with their present Condition; to insinuate that all is not right; that there is a Fault somewhere, and that the sooner 'tis discover'd the sooner it will be amended.

- - - SUCH a Hint as this is like a Spark of Fire fallen into Flax, it awakens Suspicion, occasions Discontent, and divides Mankind against one another. We are always ready to fear the Worst, and scarce stand in Need of an Incentive to put us upon our Guard. The next Step is to point out the Government as the Cause of this imaginary Evil, and accountable for all its Consequences. - - -

THIS Artifice succeeds as well as the other; for, where there is *Liberty*, the People will exert it against their Governors without Cause, rather than not exert it at all; but, if

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the least Occasion is counterfeited, the Voice of the Multitude is open'd at once, and there are always enough ready at Hand to stifle the Voice of God. Hence loud Complains are heard in the Streets, and the Respect that is due to Government is lost; Libels become frequent, innocent Actions are tortur'd into Guilt, and every unavoidable Misfortune is set down as a Crime. The Thoughtless, and Ignorant are furnish'd with Arguments for Disaffection, and Disloyalty is made the Duty of a good Subject; every Cheque on this licentious Humour, every Rebuke to the Voice of Slander is stil'd Slavery and Dependence, and 'tis voted unpopular, and unfashionable to be an Advocate for the Government.

-- SOME great and eminent Man in Power is singl'd out, to be the But for Malice and Calumny, to bear the full Force of blind Resentment, and be made the Source and Origine of all the Evils we apprehend or feel. Envy is one of the principal Ingredients of Faction, and Envy delights in nothing more than persecuting the Merit that is consider'd as its Superior. Lord Bacon says, *A Man that hath no Virtue in himself, ever envieth Virtue*
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in others. For Mens Minds will either feed upon their own Good, or other's Evil; and who wanteth the one, will prey upon the other; and whoſo is out of Hope to attain to another's Virtue, will ſeek to come at even Hand by depressing another's Fortune. This is the true Reason why one Man ſhall be loaded from Week to Week with the Miſcarriages of a whole People; there was no Way left to make him unpopular, but to make him guilty; and, if his own Character would not furniſh out the Means, the wicked Imaginations of his Enemies abundantly ſupply'd the Defect. After ſuch a Monster was made, 'twas eaſy to find a Method to expoſe him to publick View; and endeavour to awake the Fury of the Multitude to deſtroy him: Neither has any Step been wanting for that Purpoſe, tho' hitherto every Step has been in vain.

BUT the Rage of *Faction* does not ſtop here; if one Scheme proves abortive, it has Recourſe to another; 'tis indefatigable in Miſchief, and nothing but Blood can make it eaſy.--- The *Minifter* ſtill continued, and protected, in Spite of Threats, or Flattery, open Oppoſition, or ſecret Undermining, they in-

volve the Power, that continues and protects him, in the same Condemnation. The KING himself must be now render'd suspected to the People, and they receive their Cue to treat him with Contempt; the sacred, inviolable Bond of mutual Affection between the KING and his Subjects is invaded, in Compliment to the Spleen of a few desperate *Malecontents*, and we are persuaded to believe him an Enemy to the Publick, because he presumes to govern without their Assistance. - - - Hence a People, naturally fond of Change, are led into an Antipathy to the present Establishment, and consequently desirous of a new. For those, who once imagine themselves injur'd under one Power, will expect Redress from another, and will balance their present Sufferings, with such empty Expectations; at the same Time that they obstinately shut their Eyes, on the unavoidable Misfortunes that must attend on so fatal a Remedy.

Thus is the KING robb'd of the Hearts of his People, without being suffer'd to complain; thus is the Strength of a Kingdom divided against itself, and no body must endeavour at a Reunion; and thus is Confusion growing upon us daily, and no body must
endeavour

endeavour to prevent it, without being distinguished by the odious Names of *Slaves* and *Mercenaries*; as if no one could be a Friend to his Country that was not an Enemy to the KING, or deserv'd the Name of *Patriot* that was not in the Interest of the *Pretender*. But, I thank God, there are yet many in *Israel* who have not bow'd the Knee to *Baal*; nor will the illustrious House of *Hanover* ever want Friends to support it, as long as it continues to wear the Crown with Honour, and govern only for the Happiness of the People. Yet, however firmly it may be establish'd, 'tis really a melancholy Prospect to see with what Eagerness *Faction* has endeavour'd to undermine and destroy it; to see what Habits of Disaffection it has labour'd to establish among the People, what Arts have been us'd to defame the Measures of the Government, what Opposition they have met with both within Doors and without, and what Violence has been us'd to shake the Establishment 'tis so much our Duty and our Interest to cherish and preserve. This is the true Circumstance that *Faction* reduces a Kingdom to at home; this is the natural Consequence of its infamous Endeavours, and so fatal is the Confidence of a People in such dissembled *Patriotism*.

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WE will now examine what Effect this Opposition has on a Nation's Affairs abroad; whether we have not Reason to believe it a dead Weight on foreign Negotiations, and consequently an universal Mischief that clogs the Wheels of Government every Way, to the manifest Danger of the whole Machine.

'TIS notorious every Community has its own distinct Interest, which it takes all Advantages to pursue, and that a wise *Minister* will make every Incident subservient to this End: If, therefore, there is a *Faction* in the Councils of any Nation, that makes it its Business to distress the Administration, to oppose its Designs, defame its Character, and stir up Seditions to ruin it, surely its *Enemies* will look upon the *Faction* as its *Ally*, act in Concert with it, make Use of its Intelligence, and attack the very Weakness which was pointed out to them for that Purpose. Beside they know the Governours of a divided People must be distracted in their Attention to publick Affairs; they have two Points in View, both equally important, their Enemies abroad, and the Faction at home. They consider them as a Pilot that has a Shoal to avoid, and a Ship to engage, and in Consequence will have
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his Hands full to compass both. Encouraged by this Prospect they grow insolent, and untractable, are ready to commit any Violence, but slow to make Reparation; they only wait the Opportunity to do Mischief, and will expect to do it with Impunity. In such a Situation as this a warlike Nation may be insulted, and a *Minister* not have it in his Power to avenge them. One false Step in War is of infinitely worse Consequence than ten in Peace, and what is lost by the Sword in a Day, may require an Age to recover. 'Tis a Maxim in common Life to chuse the least Evil, but in publick Affairs 'tis the greatest Absurdity to do otherwise; tis Prudence to endure an Inconvenience when 'tis not in one's Power to amend it, for it only makes the Weakness manifest to attempt in vain. Should therefore one Nation be injur'd by another who took the Advantage of its intestine Troubles to make the Blow the surer, and the *Ministry* of that injur'd Nation were render'd incapable to do it Justice, by the Influence of that very *Faction* which gave the first Hint for the Misfortune, the Disgrace is to be charg'd to the Account of the *Faction*, and the Ministry is to be rather lamented than blam'd, for not being able to prevent the Danger.

IN like Manner even the Friends of such a Nation are intimidated from giving that Assistance, or coming into the Measures they were inclin'd to for the common Security. There is no such Thing as Virtue in the Transactions between Kingdoms, and Kingdoms: Interest is both Motive and End, and, where that is not the Cement, there will be no true Harmony. For this Reason all wise States wait the Issue and Event of things before they come to any Resolution in Favour of their distressed Neighbours, and will never attempt any Thing to serve them, unless they can find their own Benefit in it, and be sure of an Equivalent for their Pains. This occasions the frequent Fluctuations in Publick Affairs, this varies the Interests and Applications of Courts, multiplies Treaties, makes it so difficult to obtain them, and so easy to render them null and void. 'Tis to be observ'd this is only the Case of a Nation rent with Factions at home; for when the State is in Health at Heart, it will have Power in its Hand; the *Ministry* will then not only keep a watchful Eye on its Interests, but be able to defend them too: The whole Strength of the Publick would then be at
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the Service of the Publick, and whatever could be gained by Force, might be commanded without it. Hence 'tis plain that *Faction* to a State, is like a Fever to the Body; it quickens the Pulse, ferments the Juices, gives Colour to the Cheek, and Spirit to the Eye, but feeds on the Heart at the same Time, and affords these flattering Symptoms only to be its Bane. No Kingdom whatever can make a Figure abroad when 'tis assaulted by *Faction* at Home, neither can any foreign Enemy be so dangerous, as an Opposition that strikes at the Root of Power, and Peace. 'Tis therefore again to be observed, that *Faction* disarms a *Ministry* even of the necessary Means to protect their Country, and the Guilt must lie at the Door of those who occasion'd the Evil, not those who could not cure it.

Thus have we briefly recounted the ill Effects of *Faction* on foreign and domestick Affairs; we have prov'd 'tis one of the greatest Evils, that can befall a *free People* in its fatal Influence on both, and from hence we may safely conclude, 'tis the Interest of every good Subject to prevent its Growth, to the utmost of his Power, as

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'tis the Duty of the Magistrate to guard against the Evils that attend it. But there is yet another Circumstance to be consider'd in which Faction is more dangerous than in either of the former, and that is when two distinct Parties have divided a Nation, and the PRINCE on the Throne is threatned, from Time to Time, with the Rivalship of a *Pretender*.

----THIS is indeed one of the most dreadful Aggravations of the Malignity of *Faction* that can possibly be imagin'd; for, while it is a head-less Monster, 'tis easily control'd; but, when 'tis assisted, and guarded by a formidable Name, it grows formidable itself, and there's no Foresight can discover an End to the Mischiefs it may occasion. In such a Case whoever grows disaffected to one Establishment, naturally attaches himself to the other; factious Persons rather consult a Plea for their Passions, than the Equity of that Plea, and to serve their own Purposes, will change their Principles, or act in Opposition to them which is worse. Whatever is lost by one Party, will be gain'd by the other, and consequently the last increases doubly on the

the Balance: Some will be disaffected by Education, and long Custom; some out of mere Whim and Caprice, and others in Resentment of Disgrace, and Disappointment: All join in the common Cause; and Difference of Opinion is forgot, while their mutual Interest is the indissoluble Band of their Union. Thus join'd, thus increas'd, thus headed, and thus strengthen'd, 'tis no Wonder if a State should grow apprehensive of their Power, or endeavour to restrain it; nay, 'twould be unpardonable Indolence to neglect it; for all *Europe*, in league against a brave and united People, is not half so dangerous, as a *Faction* of their own, of this complicated Nature.----

----WE have already laid it down as a Rule, that *Faction* is the constitutional Disease of a free People, and that it unavoidably arises from that very Freedom; therefore 'tis a *Minister's* first Duty, to watch every Motion it makes, and guard against the meditated Blow. As, such a People pique themselves on their Liberty of Speech, they will always make Use of it, right or wrong, and the first who sets up the Cry of *Patriotism* will be sure to be followed

by the whole Herd: 'Tis the popular Side of the Question, and whoever distinguishes himself as their *Bell-Wether*, will have the whole *Mob* at his Heels in a Moment; 'tis the easiest Way to Reputation, and, as a noble Author has it, *many a Man's Strength is in Opposition, and, when that faileth, he groweth out of Use.* 'Tis not to be wonder'd then that such a Leader, and his Party make it their Business to rail at all Events; 'tis exacted from them by the *Faction* they serve, and, if they boggle at Trifles they would not be qualified for their Post; 'tis a Proof of their Zeal, and they must abide by the Test.

---IF therefore Disaffection is so popular, and the bare Notion of Change can unite so many Persons, of such different Parties, and such opposite Principles, 'tis certain all such Combinations must be directly, or indirectly, dangerous to the Monarch in Possession, and he has abundant Reason to be on his Guard, both for his People's Sake, and his own. For, tho' Numbers may oppose him, and his Government, Numbers will continue in their Fidelity notwithstanding, and 'twould not be
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fit that the Innocent should suffer for the Guilty. Beside, even the disobedient Subject is a Child of our common Father, and should be chasten'd only to be reform'd. Men's Passions precipitate them into real Dangers, while they fly from imaginary ones; and, while they make themselves their own Physicians, they become their own Murtherers. We would charitably suppose that none are directly endeavouring at a Revolution in Government, but 'tis certain many would be fond of it, and bad Minds, in such Cases, are too often the Majority. History will furnish us with but very few Examples of Changes that have answer'd their desir'd End; but either they have cost more than they were worth, or they have introduc'd more Evils than they cur'd; so that in the End even the most sincere Patriots have repented their Enterprize, and wish'd it undone even for the Sake of the very Cause they espous'd. Such has been the Case where Grievances were *indeed* to be redress'd; then what shall we say to those who would drive a *happy* Nation into such Extremities, without the least Reason to justify their Complaints, or excuse their Conduct? Surely they must be accountable

able for all the Guilt that they involve the Unwary in, and all the Misery they intail on the Unhappy. Whoever disturbs the Peace of a Kingdom to sooth his own Passions, or deceives a People into Disloyalty under the Pretence of *Patriotism*, is worse than an open Enemy, he is a false Friend, and deserves a Vengeance equal to his Perfidy.---

BUT, if Faction is a Disease of so inveterate a Nature, we may be ask'd, How it shall be cur'd?

---To which we answer, the Government itself is the best Judge, and to them we refer it as a Point too weighty for our Determination. In the mean while, we may venture to say, that to keep it out of Power and Place, is to disarm it of its Teeth and Sting; and 'tis in the People themselves to do the rest: --- For, if they would be sensible of their own Happiness, nor suffer themselves to be misled into a Jealousy of their Governours, or Proneness to change; *Faction* would be disarm'd at once, and spend itself in empty Railing, like a Summer Storm that blusters away its Hour,
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and is forgot. To subdue it by Force may be dangerous to our real Liberties, and therefore to be avoided; Slavery is a worse Evil than *Faction* itself, and consequently 'tis better to endure the last with Patience, than open an Inlet for the first. 'Tis the People only can make a *Faction* formidable, and, if they will remain neutral, *Liberty* and the *Government* will both be secure, and flourish together. But perhaps it may be objected, that, by this Passiveness of the People, their Friends may be discourag'd as well as their Enemies; that is to say, *Patriotism* itself may be stil'd *Faction*, and by that Means be depriv'd of the Support that it expected and deserv'd.

To this we reply, that popular Remedies of publick Calamities are so full of Difficulty, and Danger, that *Patriotism* would infallibly make it the *dernier Resort*, and be loth at last to put all to the Hazard on so precarious a Foundation. Let us therefore farther add, that, however the Names of *Patriotism* and *Faction* are confounded, there is a wide Difference in the Things themselves. *Patriotism* is the calm
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and deliberate Resolve of Virtue, to defend the Liberties of the People at the Expence of its own Life and Fortune, and in Defiance of the Lure of Interest, or the Threat of Danger ; *Faction* is the rash misguided Opposition of Ambition and Revenge, to Power and Peace ; the mad Perseverance of Disappointment and Despair, to embroil the State they cannot govern, and make the People the Steps to their Preferment, and their own Ruin.

BRUTUS was a Patriot, and *Catiline* an Incendiary ; Justice, and Love of Mankind, arm'd the one, and Rebellion and Rapine the other : Mildness, Moderation and Philosophy were the Companions of the first ; Rage, Avarice, and Lust of Power the last. Both were unfortunate, but Time hath been faithful to their Memories ; *Brutus* will always appear amiable, and *Catiline* detestable while *Patriotism* and *Faction* are distinguished by Mankind. These two Characters will serve as an eternal Mirror to reflect the Features of either, and, if we'll be at the Pains to make the Comparison, we shall never be deceiv'd. 'Tis Pity we have
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an Opportunity to make the last the Standard of our Judgment now; but we have our *Catilines* as well as *Rome*, and 'tis well we are so happy to have a *Cicero* to oppose them. *Faction* is indeed gone forth among us with a high Hand, like the *Devil* in the *Revelations*, let loose for a thousand Years; it seems to have taken its Residence among us, and threatens to become too mighty for Controul. Yes, we have seen its Rise in Disappointment, and its Progress with Revenge; we have seen it flatter for Popularity, and yet attempt to set the Liberties of the People at Sale; we have seen it affect the Masque of *Patriotism*, and yet scatter Sedition against the Prince it pretended to honour: Hence all the domestick Evils in its Train fatally took Place, and Discord rejoic'd in the Business that was prepar'd for her; hence Discontent grew bold in its Reproaches of Power, and Scandal openly spread its Libels against the Fame of Virtue; hence the Measures of Government have been oppos'd, and ridicul'd, and the King has been depriv'd of the Affections of his People. Hence our Neighbours have taken the Advantage of our Divisions to insult us, and

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Patriotism has been made the Tool to destroy us; hence our Allies have grown cool in our Interests, and Treaties have been prolong'd, and disappointed in the Views they were calculated to serve; hence the *Opposition* at home acted in Concert with our Enemies abroad, and mutual Intelligence has been made a mutual Advantage; and hence even the present Establishment of the Throne has been glanc'd at, and *Jacobites* dare again cabal in Favour of the *Pretender*. This is no imaginary Surmize, but a sober, serious Fact, that every Body must be sensible of, that is, in any Measure, acquainted with the Party: 'Tis not meant here that they are actually forming any Design; no, 'tis not yet in their Power, but nothing is more common than Discourses to the Advantage of him, and his Family, and invidious Parallels that none but the *Craftsman* could teach, as none but *Jacobites* could believe. Discourses, 'tis true, are not Actions, but they ripen into Action by Degrees, and cannot be prevented too soon: There is an Infection in Things of this Nature, and the Plague is amongst us before we are apprehensive of the Danger. This they know themselves, and sit down quietly,
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till the present unhappy Divisions give them an Opportunity to strike a Blow, that we may endeavour to prevent too late.

'Tis my serious Opinion that the Majority of this Nation are well affected to the *Hanover Succession*, and his present Majesty is too well establish'd in the Throne, to be shaken in it by any *Faction* whatever. But Disloyalty, tho' it creep slowly, may grow powerful at last, and therefore should be guarded against betimes. The House of *Lancaster* enjoy'd the Crown for three Descents, and yet lost it at last, and the Examples of former Times are recorded to prevent the like Evils for the future. 'Tis to the present *Faction* we owe such Advantages as these, and no others; there is scarce a Misfortune that we have suffer'd, but what some Way or other is due to them. Even the Causes of their most popular Complaints receive their Original from themselves, For the Charge of Government, which is the Occasion of Taxes, has been continued at its present Height, in mere Compliment to the *Opposition*. 'Tis to the *Opposition* we owe the long Uncertainty of our Affairs abroad, as well as our present Divisions at home;

for, had all been quiet, and unanimous among ourselves, the *Ministry* could have exerted all their own Address, and all the Strength of the Nation, to compass that End, which the Half of either would require a longer Time to perfect; to which may be added that a cunning Enemy will be sure to thwart a Minister to the utmost of his Power, to make his own Terms the better. Thus were the Taxes continued, because the *Opposition* continued the Difficulties which demanded them, and the *Opposition* continued to declaim at the Expence that they themselves made necessary. In like Manner have we been oblig'd to keep the Army on Foot, because all the Nations in *Europe* have treated for Peace Sword in Hand, and seem to wait only to prey on that which shall disarm first: Yet this is made a perpetual Subject for Clamour, and such virulent Things have been writ, and said upon the Occasion, as render it highly imprudent to lay aside a Security, that 'twould be almost seasonable to raise. One would think the *Faction* oppos'd the *Army* with this Violence, because it might prove a Curb to their Fury: For, whatever they may advance of the Danger of military Forces in Time
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of Peace, 'tis evident they are apprehensive of none; for 'tis my Opinion, if they were, they would not have spoken so freely on the Occasion. -- People may rave about the Loss of *Liberty* if they please, but no Body will believe 'tis in any Hazard, while the Mouth of Scandal is open'd with Impunity.

--- Thus the mischievous Effect of this *Mock-Patriotism* is greater than any Good that can possibly attend it, and consequently they deceive the People, while they pretend to serve them: A true Lover of his Country would never feed on its Calamities, and glory in every new Difficulty it was involv'd in; yet such has been the constant Practice of the *Opposition*, and, by that Means, they have always doubled the Evil they complain'd of: But when any popular Point has taken Place, when *foreign Troops* have been disbanded, or the Charge of Government *lessen'd*, they have been as silent as if they had no Interest in the Publick-Weal, but were only to insult its Misfortunes. I appeal to all Mankind whether this is not the Truth of the Fact, and whether full half of the national Woe is not to be laid to their Charge. But
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the Cry is gone forth against the *Ministry*, and it must be condemn'd at all Events. The *Faction* prepar'd the Venom which the Multitude swallow'd; not because they believ'd it wholesome Physick, but because it suited their Palates. Every one was willing to excuse his own Extravagances, by throwing the Blame on the *Times*; and he, who ruin'd himself by Luxury, was pleas'd with an Opportunity to charge his Folly on the *Administration*. We may say what we think fit of bad Measures, and blund'ring Politicks; a general Corruption of Men's Morals, and bad Oeconomy in Life, will occasion general Ruin as well as Tyranny, and Slavery: Every Body that has Eyes must see, and deplore the Depravity of the Age: Riot and Debauchery are inconsistent with the Weal of a trading Nation, and the Moment that Pleasure takes Place, Industry is at an End.

LET any Man compare the Expence of our modern Citizens with the Frugality of their Forefathers, and ask, if 'tis possible they should thrive as well? No, Gaming, and Lewdness are more in Fashion than ever,
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Men of small Fortunes vie with those of large, and those of large live beyond them, as if it was elegant to be in Debt, and Virtue to be undone.

*Hinc Usura vorax, rapidumque in Tempore Fœnus;
Hinc concussa Fides, & multis utile Bellum;*

LUCAN.

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